

Message Text

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TAGS: MASS, GW, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND THE FRG

REF: BONN 15353

1. CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OVER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MOTIVATION IN REOPENING ISSUE OF POSSIBLE LOCKHEED ILLICIT PAYMENTS TO GERMAN OFFICIALS REACHED NEW HIGHPOINT SEPTEMBER 15 WITH PRESS CONFERENCE BY CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT. PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON THIS MATTER HAVE BEEN THROUGH PRESS SPOKESMAN BOELLING OR OTHER RELATIVELY LOW RANKING FIGURES. CHANCELLOR SPOKE TO CHARGE IN CSU ORGAN BAYERN-KURIER THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FOLLOWING A POLICY OF OBSTRUCTION IN THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR.

2. UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE TEXT OF SCHMIDT'S REMARKS FOLLOWS:
THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT INFORMED US WHETHER IN THESE DOCUMENTS THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO CONCLUDE WHETHER IN CIVIL LAW, CRIMINAL LAW, TAX LAW, OR DISCIPLINARY LAW PROCEEDINGS SHOULD BE INITIATED BY US. BUT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TOLD US THAT THEY WOULD MAKE THE MATERIALS AVAILABLE ONLY ON THE BASIS OF A FORMAL AGREEMENT, AND UNDER AMERICAN LAW THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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DOCUMENTS COULD ONLY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SUCH OFFICES

AS ARE COMPETENT FOR CRIMINAL OR DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS. ON THE GERMAN SIDE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST ON FACTUAL AS WELL AS LEGAL GROUNDS IN MAKING THE MATERIALS AVAILABLE ALSO IF POSSIBLE TO THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG, IF THE PARLIAMENT SHOULD SO REQUEST IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS POLITICAL COMPETENCE. I CAN ENVISAGE IN THAT REGARD AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES INDEPENDENT OF THE LIMITATIONS OF CRIMINAL LAW. THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT WHETHER IT IS PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE MATERIALS FOR SUCH A PURPOSE HAS BEEN CONDUCTED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND, IF I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY, WILL BE RENEWED NEXT WEEK BY THE STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. I CAN AT THIS TIME NOT FORESEE WHETHER MR. ERKEL WILL BRING MATTERS TO A CONCLUSION IN THIS ROUND OF TALKS. THE CHARGE IN THE BAYERN-KURIER TO WHICH YOU REFERRED, THAT WE ARE DELAYING THE MATTER, IS RIDICULOUS, ABSURD. WE DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE MATERIAL. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS CONTAINED.

HILLENBRAND

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